

**CATHOLIC DOGMA. THE  
FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF REVEALED  
RELIGION. LECTURES DELIVERED IN  
1891 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
CHURCH CLUB OF NEW YORK**

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REVEALED RELIGION

**Lectures**

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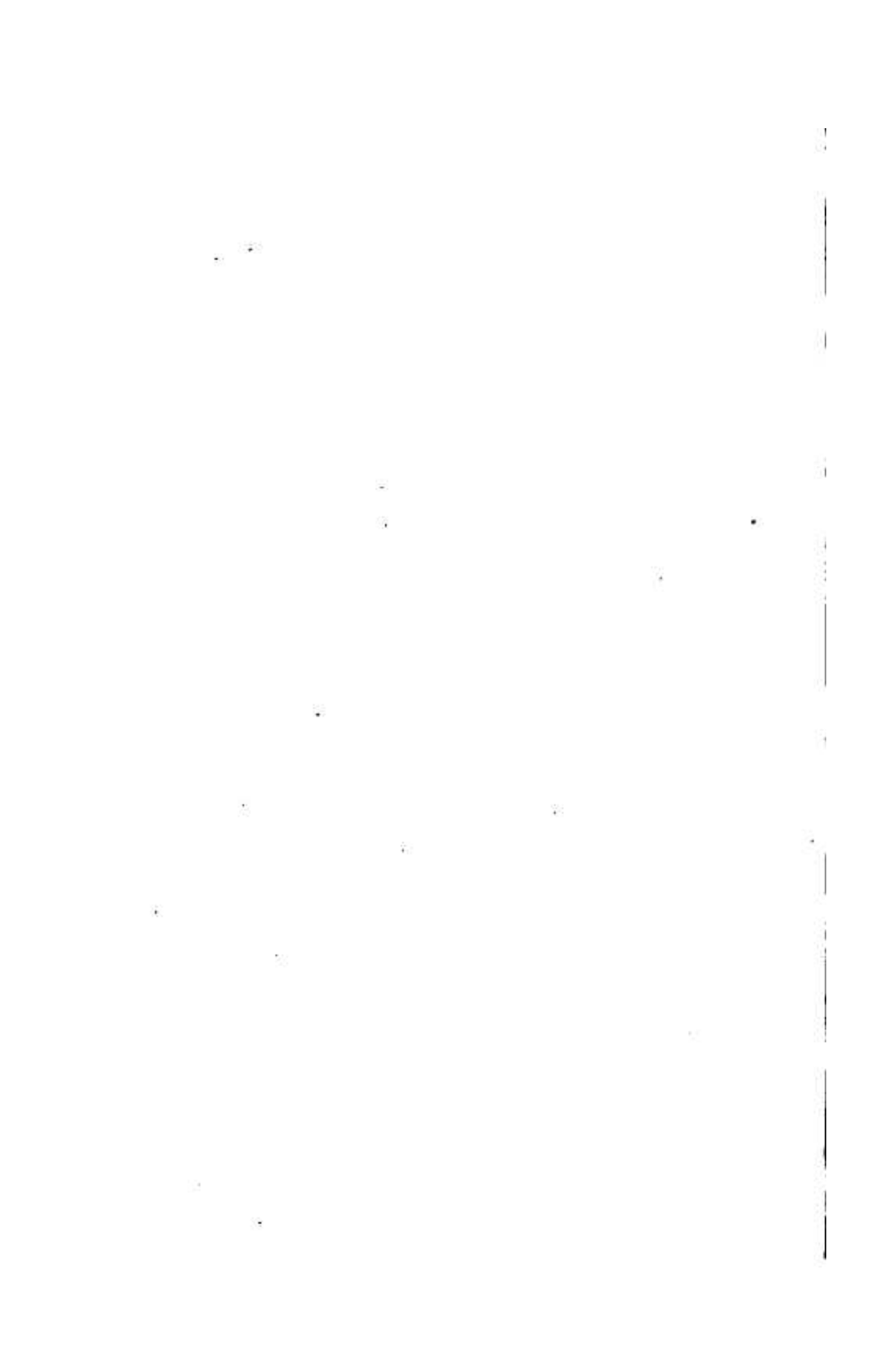
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## INTRODUCTION.

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**W**HEN Catholic Dogma is mentioned there are those who ask, is it worth while to spend time in discussing dogma when there is so much work to be done? Give your mind and your labor, they say, to the rescue and help of the wretched and the depraved, the sinful and the unfortunate; go and practise toward them that love which is the fulfilling of the law; but do not waste your energies upon disputations about creeds.

Yet the Church has always occupied itself very largely with dogma, and has strenuously insisted upon the importance of it. With a world to convert, S. Paul filled his letters chiefly with dogma. In the tremendous decline and fall of the Roman

empire, and wreck of civilization, the Church dwelt on dogma perpetually, and the Church was in earnest then as now to convert and save the world. In times of reformation not only is righteousness of life emphasized, but the faith of the Church is scrutinized with the keenest criticism. How does it happen that at specially critical times dogma is made so prominent in the Church's life? Inasmuch as it is the peculiar business of the Church, among all the institutions in the world, to teach Christianity, anything that it has uniformly held to be matter of highest importance has a strong *à priori* claim upon our attention. We cannot excuse ourselves for not attending to it by saying that it does not interest us. If it be important it is our duty to attend to it. If it make any difference whether we believe one thing or another, we are bound to find out what the truth is and to maintain it.

In determining whether it is worth while to spend our time in studying and discussing